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Edward B. Knudson

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EXAMINER

STOKELY-COLLINS, JASMINE N

ART UNIT

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed on 9/18/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

On pages 3-4 of applicant's remarks, applicant argues that Young does not teach a combined video recorder and television unit. The examiner disagrees. In column 18, lines 26-27, Young teaches a schedule/tape controller may be implemented as element 182 shown in figure 22B (i.e. with VCR functionality). Young goes on to say, in lines 29-32, that the schedule/tape controller (such as schedule system/controller 182) may be integrated into a TV/Monitor receiver. Furthermore, the technology for combining a VCR and TV into one unit was already well known in the art (TV/VCR combos were known as early as the 1980s. See US design Patent D318049 to Sasaki et al for an example). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the combination of Young's VCR functionality (included with the schedule system/tape controller) integrated into a TV.

On page 5 of applicant's remarks, applicant argues that Choi's teaching does not meet the claimed feature of asking the user whether to continue with recording. The examiner disagrees; Choi's invention presents a screen which gives the user an opportunity to continue with, alter, or cancel the scheduled recording (col. 1 ll. 42-51). This choice of options is understood by the user upon the display of the screen. The act of asking (which is defined as *to solicit*) does

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not inherently require the use of a question mark. The presentation of Choi's choice is soliciting the user to continue with, alter, or cancel recording. Therefore applicant's claimed feature is taught by Choi's teaching of presenting this choice.

The examiner's previous rejection is upheld.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US 6,408,435 B1) in view of Young et al (US 5,353,121), and further in view of Choi (US 5,285,265).

Regarding claim 1, Sato teaches an interactive program guide system (tabulated information on broadcasting programs, abstract) including user equipment (figure 1 element 21: personal computer with WWW browser) with which an interactive television program guide is provided (column 5 lines 8-15) and which includes a video recorder (figure 1 elements 11 and 13: VTR and mini disc player/recorder) and a television (figure 1 element 14: TV receiver), comprising:

means for receiving television program guide information for use in the

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interactive television program guide (column 5 lines 8-15); and means for selecting a program for recording from the interactive television program guide (column 5 lines 15-25).

Regarding limitation “means for determining whether the video recorder and television are a combined unit”, Sato teaches means for determining the types of devices connected to an audio/visual system (column 7 lines 14-30).

Sato does not teach a combined television and video recorder unit. Sato also does not teach means for displaying a message prior to recording the selected program when the video recorder and television are a combined unit that informs the user that recording is to begin and asks the user whether to continue with recording.

Young teaches an interactive program guide system that can include a combined television and video recorder unit (column 18 lines 26-32). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the combined television and video recorder unit taught by Young in the multitude of registered devices taught by Sato for the benefit of accommodating a more comprehensive array of available audio/visual devices.

Choi teaches means for displaying a message prior to recording a program (column 4 lines 4-11-36, figure 3) that informs the user that recording is to begin and asks the user whether to continue with recording (although the screen does not display a “would you like to continue recording” message, it is implied. The purpose of the screen is to give a user the opportunity to cancel the

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scheduled recording, as evidenced by column 1 lines 42-51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Choi's teaching of a recording confirmation screen with the interactive program guide and TV/VCR combo taught by Sato in view of Young for the benefit of giving the user greater control over recording functions.

Regarding claim 2, when read in light of claim 1, Choi further teaches means for cancelling the recording of the selected program when the user chooses to not continue with recording in response to the message (column 1 lines 42-51).

Regarding claim 3, when read in light of claim 1, Sato further teaches means for receiving a plurality of television channels (figure 1 elements 17 and 18: antennas for receiving VHF/UHF and satellite broadcasts). Young further teaches means for tuning to the channel for the selected program and directing the video recorder to record the selected program (column 19 lines 1-11). The combination of Sato in view of Young and Choi result in this happening when the user chooses to continue with recording in response to the message, as discussed in claim 1.

Regarding claim 5, when read in light of claim 1, Sato further teaches means for receiving a plurality of television channels (figure 1 elements 17 and

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18: antennas for receiving VHF/UHF and satellite broadcasts);

Young further teaches means for tuning to the channel for the selected program, turning on the video recorder, and directing the video recorder to record the selected program (column 19 lines 1-11).

Choi teaches the recording function occurs when the user does not respond to the message (column 3 lines 48-54, where claim 11 “enabling user disablement of said pre-programmed recording operation” implies that recording will continue as scheduled unless disabled by the user).

Regarding claim 6, Sato teaches a method for using an interactive program guide system (tabulated information on broadcasting programs, abstract) including user equipment (figure 1 element 21: personal computer with WWW browser) with which an interactive television program guide is provided (column 5 lines 8-15) and which includes a video recorder (figure 1 elements 11 and 13: VTR and mini disc player/recorder) and a television (figure 1 element 14: TV receiver), comprising:
receiving television program guide information for use in the interactive television program guide (column 5 lines 8-15); and
selecting a program for recording from the interactive television program guide (column 5 lines 15-25).

Regarding limitation “determining whether the video recorder and television are a combined unit”, Sato teaches means for determining the types of devices connected to an audio/visual system (column 7 lines 14-30).

Sato does not teach a combined television and video recorder unit. Sato also does not teach displaying a message prior to recording the selected program when the video recorder and television are a combined unit that informs the user that recording is to begin and asks the user whether to continue with recording.

Young teaches an interactive program guide system that can include a combined television and video recorder unit (column 18 lines 26-32).

Choi teaches displaying a message prior to recording a program (column 4 lines 4-11-36, figure 3) that informs the user that recording is to begin and asks the user whether to continue with recording (although the screen does not display a “would you like to continue recording” message, it is implied. The purpose of the screen is to give a user the opportunity to cancel the scheduled recording, as evidenced by column 1 lines 42-51).

Regarding claim 7, please see analysis of claim 2.

Regarding claim 8, please see analysis of claim 3.

Regarding claim 10, please see analysis of claim 5.

Regarding claim 11, please see analysis of claim 1. The claimed circuitry configured to perform the functions of claim 1 is inherent.

Regarding claim 12, please see analysis of claim 2.

Regarding claim 13, please see analysis of claim 3.

Regarding claim 15, please see analysis of claim 5.

4. Claims 4, 9, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US 6,408,435 B1) in view of Young et al (US 5,353,121) and Choi (US 5,285,265), and further in view of Roop et al (US 5,619,274).

Regarding claim 4, when read in light of claim 3, Sato in view of Young and Choi teaches the interactive program guide system defined in claim 3 further comprising means to continue with recording in response to a message. Sato in view of Young and Choi does not teach means for recording the selected program without directing the video recorder to turn on.

Roop teaches means for recording the selected program without directing the video recorder to turn on (column 15 lines 36-48). When combined with the

teachings of Sato in view of Young and Choi, this results in the recording process occurring when the user chooses to continue with recording in response to the message. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Roop with the TV/VCR recording method taught by Sato in view of Young and Choi for the benefit of not inadvertently preventing recording in the situation where a VCR is already turned on at the scheduled recording time.

Regarding claim 9, please see analysis of claim 4.

Regarding claim 14, please see analysis of claim 4.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASMINE STOKELY-COLLINS whose telephone number is (571) 270-3459. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Koenig can be reached on (571) 272-7296. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jasmine Stokely-Collins/
Examiner, Art Unit 2423
/Hunter B. Lonsberry/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2421